GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4800
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2001
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY APPELLATE BOARD
T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planning to establish an Intellectual Property Appellate Board;

(b) if so, the objectives of the proposed board;

(c) whether nearly 2.6 lakh applications are pending for trade mark registration;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to reduce the pendency of un-examined applications; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to strengthen the trade mark registry?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. It is proposed to set up an Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB as required under Section 83 of the Trade Marks Act 1999. The objectives of the IPAB is to hear appeals against the decisions of the Registrar; to provide a mechanism for quick disposal of cases; to develop sound precedents and practices; and to ensure that appeal from the Registrar`s decision is dealt with by judicial and technical experts promptly.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. To augment the capabilities of the Trade Marks Registry, a project for Strengthening the Infrastructure of Trade Marks Registry under the 9th Five Year Plan period was approved by the Government. The estimated cost ofvarious activities envisaged in the project is Rs. 8.60 crores. The thrust of the project is to eliminate the backlog of pending applications, augment the staff resources of the Registry, modernize the registry and its branches through IT support and strengthen the available infrastructure apart from improving public utility services. The work on the various activities is under progress.